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SH 2487616

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Suspect James Harris Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System report.

Suspect Hayden Taylor Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System report.

Suspect Deven Littlejohn Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System report.

POST training and range qualification records of Deputy Edwin Barajas.

POST training and range qualification records of Deputy Taylor Ingersoll.

POST training and range qualification records of Deputy Rogelio Benzor.

POST training and range qualification records of Deputy Edgar Cuevas.

Email sent to Deputy Public Defender Marcus Huntley requesting to interview Suspects James Harris and Hayden Taylor, dated May 23, 2022.

United States Postal Service certified mail receipts.

Criminal Index and Minute Order for Case TA152343.

Four (4) Signed Administrative Rights Force / Shooting Investigation Forms.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Officer Involved Shooting

Report Date:	Bureau/Station/Facility:	
07/03/2019	Central Patrol Division / Compton Station	Admin. Invest.? [x] Hit? [x]

Incident Information

URN: 019-09696-2814-011	Date: 07/03/2019 Time: 2320
City or Station: Compton	Nature of Incident: During a vehicle pursuit, suspect(s) armed with a high powered rifle shot at deputy personnel resulting in a deputy involved shooting.
Location: [redacted] West Spruce Street, Compton [redacted] East 119th Street, Los Angeles	

Location Type (check one or more):
- [ ] Backyard
- [ ] Beach
- [ ] Business
- [ ] Freeway
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Park
- [ ] Parking Lot
- [ ] Residence
- [ ] Rural
- [ ] School
- [x] Street
- Other:

Lighting (check only one):
- [x] Darkness
- [ ] Daylight
- [ ] Other
- [x] Street Lights

Weather (circle only one):
- [x] Clear
- [ ] Cloudy
- [ ] Fog
- [ ] Rain

Distance: 20 feet

Incident Type (check one or more):
- [ ] Accidental
- [x] Armed Person
- [x] Fleeing Suspect
- [ ] Foot Pursuit
- [ ] Gun Take Away
- [x] Moving Vehicle
- [x] Sniper/Ambush
- [ ] Startle
- [ ] Struggle Involved
- [x] Traffic Stop
- [ ] Unarmed Person
- [ ] Unintentional
- [x] Vehicle Pursuit
- [ ] Warrant Service
- [ ] Warning Shot
- Other:

Initiated by (check only one):
- [ ] Arrest Warrant
- [ ] Call
- [x] Observation
- [ ] One Person Unit
- [ ] Other
- [ ] Search Warrant
- [ ] Two Person Unit

Prior Activity (check only one):
- [ ] Detective
- [ ] Inmate Transport
- [ ] Other
- [x] Routine Patrol

Aero Unit? [x] Canine Unit? [ ]

Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy	Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect
39	Unknown

Employee Witnesses

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (check only one)	ShiftType (check only one)
				[ ] EM [ ] PM [ ] Day	[ ] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty
				[ ] EM [ ] PM [ ] Day	[ ] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty
				[ ] EM [ ] PM [ ] Day	[ ] Regular [ ] Overtime [ ] Off Duty

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name		First Name		M.I.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name		First Name		M.I.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph
Last Name		First Name		M.I.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph	Home Ph

Supervisors

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(check one or more)
[redacted]	Magana Gaytan	Marco		[x] On Duty [ ] Present during shooting [ ] Witness to shooting [ ] Involved in shooting
[redacted]	Vavakin	Nikolai		[x] On Duty [ ] Present during shooting [ ] Witness to shooting [ ] Involved in shooting

Watch Sergeant

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Gonzalez	Eric	

Watch Commander

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Thomas	Patricia	

PSTD Use Only

SH # ____________

Officer Involved Shooting
Involved Employee Information

URN: 019-09696-2814-011

Involved Employee

E 1

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name: Barajas	First Name: Edwin	M.I. NMN
Sex: M Race: H	Rank: Deputy	Unit Assignment: Compton Station	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 287D
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): ☐ EM ☑ PM ☐ Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): ☑ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #: Interviewed? ☐
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 8	D[redacted]	Clothing (*circle only one*): ☐ Plain Clothes no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket w/ Vest ☐ Plain Clothes w/ Vest ☐ Uniform no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket no Vest ☐ Uniform w/ Vest	Other Factors:
Age: [redacted] Height: 508	Weight: 190		
Range Qualification Date: [redacted]	PPC Qualification Date: [redacted]	Laser Training Date: [redacted]	
Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted]	Patrol Certification? [redacted]	Certification Unit: [redacted] Prior Shootings? [redacted]	Number of Prior Shootings: [redacted] Directed Force: [redacted]
Weapons Fired Brand: Sig Sauer Caliber 9 # Shots 18		Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber # Shots	
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	M.I. [redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	M.I. [redacted]

E 2

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name: Ingersoll	First Name: Taylor	M.I. L
Sex: M Race: W	Rank: Deputy	Unit Assignment: Compton Station	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 287D
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): ☐ EM ☑ PM ☐ Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): ☑ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #: Interviewed? ☐
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 8	[redacted]	Clothing (*circle only one*): ☐ Plain Clothes no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket w/ Vest ☐ Plain Clothes w/ Vest ☐ Uniform no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket no Vest ☐ Uniform w/ Vest	Other Factors:
Age: [redacted] Height: 6'00"	Weight: 225		
Range Qualification Date: [redacted]	PPC Qualification Date: [redacted]	Laser Training Date: [redacted]	
Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted]	Patrol Certification? [redacted]	Certification Unit: [redacted] Prior Shootings? [redacted]	Number of Prior Shootings: [redacted] Directed Force: [redacted]
Weapons Fired Brand: Sig Sauer Caliber 9 # Shots 14		Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber # Shots	
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	M.I. [redacted]

E 3

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name: Benzor	First Name: Rogelio	M.I. J.
Sex: M Race: H	Rank: Deputy	Unit Assignment: Compton Station	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 282D
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): ☐ EM ☑ PM ☐ Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): ☑ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #: Interviewed? ☐
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 8	Duty Time (hrs): [redacted]	Clothing (*circle only one*): ☐ Plain Clothes no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket w/ Vest ☐ Plain Clothes w/ Vest ☐ Uniform no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket no Vest ☑ Uniform w/ Vest	Other Factors:
Age: [redacted] Height: 506	Weight: 180		
Range Qualification Date: [redacted]	PPC Qualification Date: [redacted]	Laser Training Date: [redacted]	
Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted]	Patrol Certification? [redacted]	Certification Unit: [redacted] Prior Shootings? [redacted]	Number of Prior Shootings: [redacted] Directed Force: [redacted]
Weapons Fired Brand: Smith & Wesson Caliber 9 # Shots 3		Weapons Fired Brand: Caliber # Shots	
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	M.I. [redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	M.I. [redacted]

See Other Side

Officer Involved Shooting
Involved Employee Information

URN: 019-09696-2814-011

Involved Employee

E 4

Employee # [redacted] | Last Name: Cuevas | First Name: Edgar | M.I.: S.

Sex: M | Race: H | Rank: Deputy | Unit Assignment: Compton | Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 282D

ShiftTime (*circle only one*): ☐ EM ☑ PM ☐ Day | ShiftType (*circle only one*): ☑ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used:

Hospital Admission? ☐ | Hospital Name: | Coroner Case? ☐ | Coroner Case # | Interviewed? ☐

Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 8 | Duty Time (hrs): [redacted] | Clothing (*circle only one*): ☐ Plain Clothes no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket w/ Vest ☐ Plain Clothes w/ Vest ☐ Uniform no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket no Vest ☐ Uniform w/ Vest | Other Factors:

Age: [redacted] | Height: 5'10" | Weight: 200

Range Qualification Date: [redacted] | PPC Qualification Date: [redacted] | Laser Training Date: [redacted]

Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted] | Patrol Certification? [redacted] | Certification Unit: [redacted] | Prior Shootings? ☑ | Number of Prior Shootings: 1 | Directed Force: [redacted]

Weapons Fired Brand: Sig Sauer | Caliber: 9 | # Shots: 4 | Weapons Fired Brand: | Caliber: | # Shots:

Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]ast Name [redacted] | First Name [redacted] | M.I. [redacted]

Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]ast Name [redacted] | First Name [redacted] | M.I. [redacted]

E ___

Employee # | Last Name | First Name | M.I.

Sex: | Race: | Rank: | Unit Assignment: | Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):

ShiftTime (*circle only one*): ☐ EM ☐ PM ☐ Day | ShiftType (*circle only one*): ☐ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used:

Hospital Admission? ☐ | Hospital Name: | Coroner Case? ☐ | Coroner Case # | Interviewed? ☐

Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: | Duty Time (hrs): | Clothing (*circle only one*): ☐ Plain Clothes no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket w/ Vest ☐ Plain Clothes w/ Vest ☐ Uniform no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket no Vest ☐ Uniform w/ Vest | Other Factors:

Age: | Height: | Weight:

Range Qualification Date: | PPC Qualification Date: | Laser Training Date:

Certified with Weapon Used? ☐ | Patrol Certification? ☐ | Certification Unit: | Prior Shootings? ☐ | Number of Prior Shootings: | Directed Force: ☐

Weapons Fired Brand: | Caliber | # Shots | Weapons Fired Brand: | Caliber | # Shots

Field Training Officer Emp # | Last Name | First Name | M.I.

Field Training Officer Emp # | Last Name | First Name | M.I.

E ___

Employee # | Last Name | First Name | M.I.

Sex: | Race: | Rank: | Unit Assignment: | Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):

ShiftTime (*circle only one*): ☐ EM ☐ PM ☐ Day | ShiftType (*circle only one*): ☐ Regular ☐ Overtime ☐ Off Duty | Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐ | Substance Used:

Hospital Admission? ☐ | Hospital Name: | Coroner Case? ☐ | Coroner Case # | Interviewed? ☐

Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: | Duty Time (hrs): | Clothing (*circle only one*): ☐ Plain Clothes no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket w/ Vest ☐ Plain Clothes w/ Vest ☐ Uniform no Vest ☐ Raid Jacket no Vest ☐ Uniform w/ Vest | Other Factors:

Age: | Height: | Weight:

Range Qualification Date: | PPC Qualification Date: | Laser Training Date:

Certified with Weapon Used? ☐ | Patrol Certification? ☐ | Certification Unit: | Prior Shootings? ☐ | Number of Prior Shootings: | Directed Force: ☐

Weapons Fired Brand: | Caliber | # Shots | Weapons Fired Brand: | Caliber | # Shots

Field Training Officer Emp # | Last Name | First Name | M.I.

Field Training Officer Emp # | Last Name | First Name | M.I.

Officer Involved Shooting
Suspect Information

URN: 019-09696-2814-011

Suspect Information

S 1

Last Name: Harris		First Name: James	M.I. E
AKA Last Name: "Buddah"		First Name:	M.I.
Sex: M Race: B	Street Add[redacted]	City [redacted]	[redacted]Zip[redacted]
Work Ph[redacted]	Home [redacted]	Social Secu[redacted]	Driver's Licen[redacted]
Age: 28 D.O.B. 02/11/1991	Height: 502 Weight: 220	FBI # [redacted]	CII # [redacted]
Booking # 5678218	Primary Charge: 187(a) PC	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☑	Apprehended? ☑	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? [redacted]

Vehicle Make: Cadillac Escalade 2018 Model: Year: Parole: No Probation: Yes Prior Felony Conviction: No

S 2

Last Name: Unknown		First Name:	M.I.
AKA Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐

Vehicle Make: Model: Year: Parole: Probation: Prior Felony Conviction:

S

Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
AKA Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐

Vehicle Make: Model: Year: Parole: Probation: Prior Felony Conviction:

S

Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
AKA Last Name:		First Name:	M.I.
Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐

Vehicle Make: Model: Year: Parole: Probation: Prior Felony Conviction:

Officer Involved Shooting

URN: 019-09696-2814-011

Rollout Information

Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Date Submitted	Date of Recommendation
07/04/2019	0430 hrs	07/05/19	

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Puebla	Victor	
[redacted]	Hamil	Jeffrey	F
[redacted]	Smitson	Eric	C

Shooting / Force Information

Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton:(Control)
(BI) Baton:(Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds:(Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds:(Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds:(Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device:Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device:Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hand
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

Brand

(AK) AK-47
(BN) Benelli
(BR) Beretta
(BW) Browning
(CH) Charter Arms
(CO) Colt
(DA) Davis Industries
(GL) Glock
(HA) Harrington & Richardson
(HI) Hi Standard
(HK) H & K
(IT) Ithica
(IV) Iver Johnson
(JE) Jennings
(LO) Lorcin
(LU) Luger
(MA) Marlin
(MO) Mossberg
(NC) NCI aka SKS
(NA) North American
(NO) Norinco
(RA) Raven
(RM) Remington
(RG) RG
(RI) RGI
(RO) Rossi
(SW) Smith & Wesson
(SR) Sturm Ruger
(SS) SIG Sauer
(ST) Sterling
(TA) Taurus
(WE) Weatherby
(WN) Winchester
(US) US Government
(YY) Handmade (Inmate)
(XX) Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(ZZ) Other Brand

Caliber

(9) 9 mm
(10) 10 mm
(12) 12 guage
(20) 20 guage
(21) .22-250
(22) .22 caliber
(23) .223 caliber
(24) .243 caliber
(25) .25 caliber
(30) .308 caliber
(35) .357 caliber
(36) 30-60 caliber
(38) .38 caliber
(40) .40 caliber
(41) .410 guage
(44) .44 caliber
(45) .45 caliber
(50) 50 mm
(SL) Slug
(WW) Other caliber

FORCE APPLIED *(one code per block)*

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S1	E1	FR	AK	WW			NN	
E1	S1	FH	SS	9	Y	Y	NN	
E2	S1	FH	SS	9	Y	Y	NN	
S1	E3	FR	AK	WW			NN	
E3	S1	FH	SW	9	Y	Y	NN	
E4	S1	FH	SS	9	Y	Y	NN	

See Front Side

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

INCIDENT: **On-Duty Deputy Involved Shooting**

IAB FILE NUMBER: **SH 2487616**

URN#: **019-09696-2814-011**

DATE/TIME: **July 3, 2019 / 2320 Hours**

LOCATION 1: **[redacted] West Spruce Street, Compton**

LOCATION 2: **[redacted] East 119th Street, Los Angeles**

SYNOPSIS

On July 3, 2019, an Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Force/Shooting Response Team comprised of Lieutenant Eric Smitson, Sergeant Victor Puebla, and Sergeant Jeffrey Hamil responded to Compton Station regarding an on-duty deputy involved non-hit shooting. IAB investigators learned Deputies Edwin Barajas, Taylor Ingersoll, Rogelio Benzor, and Edgar Cuevas (Involved Employees) exchanged gunfire with suspect(s) during a vehicle pursuit in the city of Compton. During the investigation, deputies discovered an individual, Victim [redacted] was struck with gunfire at [redacted] he was later pronounced deceased.

Lieutenant Smitson confirmed the Watch Commander, Lieutenant Patricia Thomas, took reasonable steps to ensure the involved employees did not discuss the incident amongst themselves or with uninvolved persons prior to being interviewed by the assigned investigators.

Lieutenant Smitson verified with Lieutenant Thomas the involved employees did not collectively consult with their attorney or representative, and she (Thomas) verified the personnel had been gathered in the company of a supervisor until they provided a statement to the assigned investigators.

Detectives Gina Eguia, Robert Martindale, Domenick Recchia, Michael Haggerty, Dean Camarillo, Scott Matlock, Eric Arias, Gail Durham, Antonio Guillen and Eduardo Aguirre, assigned to Homicide Bureau, arrived and assumed control of the criminal investigation. For further information, refer to reports under Uniform Report Number 019-09696-2814-011 **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book]**.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LETTER OF OPINION

This case was reviewed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division (JSID). In their letter of opinion, dated October 28, 2021, Deputy District Attorney Alan Yochelson concluded Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll acted in "lawful self-defense" and "the defense of another" when they fired their weapons. They further concluded the fatal injury sustained by Victim [redacted] did not result from the deputies' gunfire **[EXHIBIT A: JSID Letter]**.

SUMMARY

On July 3, 2019, at approximately 2319 hours, Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll were assigned to a two-deputy patrol unit, Unit 287D, at Compton Station. Deputy Barajas was the driver, and Deputy Ingersoll was the passenger. Deputies Benzor and Cuevas were also assigned as a two-deputy patrol unit, Unit 282D. Deputy Benzor was the driver, and Deputy Cuevas was the passenger of their assigned patrol unit. All four deputies were assigned to the PM Shift from [redacted] hours.

While in their marked patrol vehicle, Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll arrested an individual, Witness [redacted] for [redacted] They handcuffed and placed him in the back their patrol vehicle. They began their transport of him to Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) to book him for his [redacted] driving east on Rosecrans Avenue. They arrived at Willowbrook Avenue where they observed a black Cadillac sport utility vehicle (suspect's vehicle) fail to stop at a red light at the intersection. The driver of the Cadillac continued south onto Alameda Street and failed to stop at a red light at the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue. Deputy Barajas activated the overhead lights and siren of his patrol vehicle to initiate a traffic stop of the Cadillac. The driver slowed as the deputies attempted to exit their patrol vehicle. Suddenly, the driver of the suspect's vehicle drove away at a high rate of speed and the deputies initiated a vehicle pursuit.

Initially, Deputy Barajas intended to detain the suspect for the traffic violations he had observed. He intended to have an assisting patrol unit assist in the traffic stop; however, the suspect failed to yield to his detention, and a vehicle pursuit ensued. Deputy Barajas was concerned the suspect's driving patterns posed a threat to the community. The suspect drove at a high rate of speed, failing to stop at two red lights, and drove in and out of oncoming traffic lanes, all of which he knew to be indicative of a person who may be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Based on the vehicle's substantially dangerous driving patterns, Deputy Barajas believed the suspect needed to be apprehended and decided to continue the vehicle pursuit. Deputy Barajas' intention was to have the first responding unit arrive and take over the pursuit, as he was concerned for the safety of the arrestee detained in his backseat.

As he followed the suspect onto Elm Street, the suspect failed to stop at a posted stop sign. Deputy Barajas followed the suspect north on Acacia Avenue, as Deputy Ingersoll activated the duplex patch and advised they were in pursuit of a "reckless DUI vehicle."

The suspect drove west on Rosecrans Avenue, south on Oleander Avenue, and then turned west onto Spruce Street. At the intersection of Oleander Avenue and Spruce Street, Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll observed flashes of light and heard "gunfire" coming from the suspect's rear passenger side window. The deputies believed they were being shot at with a high-powered rifle and then heard the suspect's rounds hit their patrol vehicle. Fearing they would be killed, the deputies returned fire at the suspect's vehicle as the pursuit continued. Deputy Barajas fired approximately 10 rounds from his duty firearm while aiming at the suspect's rear passenger side window. Deputy Barajas fired his rounds through his windshield as he continued pursuing the suspects. He estimated the distance between himself and the suspect's vehicle to be approximately 15 feet as he fired his first volley of rounds.

Deputy Ingersoll feared the suspects were attempting to kill both him and his partner. Deputy Ingersoll fired approximately 5-10 rounds from his duty firearm while aiming at the rear passenger side window. He also fired through the windshield of his patrol vehicle. Deputy Ingersoll estimated the distance between himself and the suspect's vehicle to be approximately 15 feet at the moment he discharged his firearm. There was no crossfire with his partner, as both deputies were seated and fired through the windshield at the suspect's vehicle in front of them. After this exchange of gunfire, Deputy Ingersoll advised, over the radio, he and his partner were shot at and involved in a "998" **[EXHIBIT A: Radio Traffic]**. All of the rounds fired by both the deputies and suspects occurred while both vehicles were moving.

IAB Note: "998" is a Department radio code for a deputy-involved shooting (DIS).

Deputies Benzor and Cuevas were in the area and travelled north on Aranbe Street to assist in the pursuit. Deputy Benzor observed the suspect's vehicle at Spruce Street, approximately two blocks away. Deputies Benzor and Cuevas observed "fireballs" coming from the rear passenger side window of the suspect's vehicle and heard loud "bangs" from what they believed to be a high-power rifle, causing them to form the opinion the suspects were shooting at Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll. Deputies Cuevas and Benzor believed their partners were going to die due to the number of rounds being fired by the suspects. Deputy Cuevas advised over the radio he would assume control of the pursuit and broadcast the suspects' direction.

The suspects fired a second volley of rounds at Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll as they neared Aranbe Street. Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll observed the suspects again fire from the rear passenger side window. Both Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll again returned fire as they pursued the suspects. Deputy Barajas fired an additional seven rounds at the suspects through his now damaged windshield. He believed the distance between himself, and the suspects was only a "few feet" during this second exchange of gunfire. Deputy Barajas feared the suspects were going to kill him and his partner.

Deputy Ingersoll again fired through the damaged front windshield of their patrol vehicle because he feared the suspects were going to kill him and his partner. He was

concerned the suspects had no regard for their (Ingersoll and Barajas) safety, nor the community's safety as they fired indiscriminately throughout the pursuit. Deputy Barajas felt his patrol vehicle became inoperable as he approached Wilmington Avenue, and he pulled over to the side of the street. The vehicle had lost all power, including steering, and had sustained a flat tire. Concerned the suspects might have shot them or their arrestee, Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll checked each other and the arrestee for injuries. No one appeared to be seriously injured at the time; however, later Deputy Ingersoll would discover he had a superficial injury to his right hand and a burn to his left shoulder.

Deputies Benzor and Cuevas observed their partners pulled over to the side of the roadway and feared they had been killed or shot. They slowed and pulled beside Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll who appeared uninjured and were now walking around their patrol vehicle. Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll had an assisting patrol unit place their arrestee in another patrol unit, unhandcuffed. Deputies Benzor and Cuevas continued driving north on Wilmington Avenue and observed the suspect's vehicle make an eastbound turn but could not see what street they had turned onto. Deputy Benzor drove eastbound on 119th Street but did not see the suspect's vehicle. Suddenly, they observed the suspect's vehicle turn west onto 119th Street and begin driving towards them at a high rate of speed.

After seeing the suspects shoot at their partners, Deputies Benzor and Cuevas believed the suspects were now going to shoot at them. Deputies Benzor and Cuevas communicated with each other, stopped their patrol car in the middle of the street and exited. Deputies Benzor and Cuevas chose to exit their patrol vehicle, which provided cover, which in their training and experience was a big target and chose a different tactical position of cover behind their patrol vehicle and other parked vehicles. The deputies positioned themselves behind the parked patrol vehicle, but then Cuevas moved forward and stood between the car and its open passenger side door.

As the suspect's vehicle continued driving toward them, Deputies Benzor and Cuevas observed the "muzzle of a rifle" protruding from the driver's side rear passenger window. Deputy Cuevas feared the suspects were preparing to fire at and kill him or his partner. From 40 feet away from the suspect's vehicle, he fired 4 rounds from his duty firearm while aiming at the driver's side rear passenger window where he had observed the exposed rifle. Deputy Cuevas' backdrop consisted of a Food-4-Less grocery store. Deputy Cuevas believed there was no time to obtain the shotgun or AR-15 as the suspects approached.

Deputy Benzor also feared the suspects were preparing to fire at and kill him or his partner. From approximately four to ten feet from the suspect's vehicle, he fired 3 rounds from his duty firearm while aiming at the driver's side rear passenger window where he had also observed the exposed rifle barrel. Deputy Benzor's backdrop consisted of the shopping center adjacent to the Food-4-Less grocery store. The suspects did not fire at Deputies Benzor or Cuevas and continued west on 119th Street, which became 120th Street after they had crossed Willowbrook Avenue. Deputies

Benzor and Cuevas advised over the radio they had been involved in a deputy-involved shooting. They entered their patrol vehicle and continued their pursuit of the suspects. An Aero Bureau helicopter, Unit Air 22, which had responded to the deputies' radio broadcast, observed the suspect's vehicle and began following them from the sky. Unit Air 22 broadcasted the suspect's direction of travel which was now northbound on Vermont Avenue. The suspects entered the westbound 105 Freeway, and then merged onto the 405 Freeway, heading north. At this point, Deputies Benzor and Cuevas were attempting to catch up to the suspects but were not seen by the helicopter due to their distance from the pursuit.

During their pursuit, Unit Air 22 broadcasted they had been fired upon by the suspects. The pursuit approached the airspace controlled by the Los Angeles International Airport and Unit Air 22 asked for clearance to continue their current flightpath. The suspect's exited the 405 Freeway at Manchester Avenue, turned north on Ash Avenue, and then east on Queen Street where they parked their vehicle. While awaiting clearance to fly into the restricted airspace, Aero Bureau Unit Air 21, who had also responded to the initial shooting broadcast, observed the suspects had parked, and saw one suspect exit the vehicle and enter a nearby apartment complex.

Deputies Benzor and Cuevas arrived shortly after the suspects parked their vehicle. As they pulled onto Queen Street, Deputies Benzor and Cuevas observed a black male walking towards them who advised he had just been robbed. The deputies believed the male was one of the suspects involved in the pursuit and who may have shot at Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll. Deputies Cuevas and Benzor detained the male, later identified as Suspect James Harris, pending further investigation.

IAB Note: The estimated total distance of the vehicle pursuit was 8.81 miles. The duration of the pursuit lasted 8 minutes and 26 seconds, with an average speed of 63 MPH.

Not knowing if there were additional suspects in the parked vehicle, Deputies Benzor and Cuevas took a position of cover while broadcasting their location over their radio. They established containment of the area and waited for additional patrol units to arrive in order to search for any outstanding suspects.

Assisting patrol deputies made announcements for any remaining suspects inside the pursued vehicle to exit; there was no response. A responding field supervisor established a plan to approach the suspect's vehicle. Specialized "glass breaking" projectiles were fired from a Pepperball launcher to break the windows of the suspect's vehicle; however, the deputies discovered the vehicle was equipped with armored doors and windows as the projectiles bounced off or failed to break the glass. Special Enforcement Bureau deputies were requested to respond to the scene and forced entry into the suspect's vehicle. They did not locate any additional suspects inside.

Homicide Bureau detectives arrived and assumed control of the investigation. A day later, detectives discovered a hidden compartment located in the suspect's vehicle

which contained two loaded firearms **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 71, 78-79, 82-86]**. An additional firearm, high powered rifle, was discovered by [redacted] near his residence **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 95-96, 113-114]**. Mr. [redacted] notified Compton Station of the discovered firearm and it was recovered. Homicide Bureau detectives determined the rifle had been discarded by the suspects during the vehicle pursuit.

On July 6, 2019, an autopsy **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 280-308]** of Victim [redacted] was conducted by Medical Examiner Paul Gliniecki who determined his injuries and cause of death were consistent with being shot with a high-powered rifle of the type found by Mr. [redacted] and used by the suspects **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 115 and 295]**.

IAB Note: No involved employees, were equipped with body-worn cameras.

During their subsequent investigation, Homicide Bureau detectives determined Suspects Hayden Taylor and Deven Littlejohn were involved in the incident and were charged in connection with the death of Victim [redacted]

INVOLVED EMPLOYEES AND WORK HISTORY

Edwin Barajas, Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
Central Patrol Division
Compton Station

Work History:

Date of Employment:	June 23, 2008
Date Assigned to Compton Station:	June 5, 2016
Date Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents:	[redacted]
Prior Category 3 Force Incidents:	[redacted]

Equipment Worn on Person

Deputy Barajas wore a long sleeve Class "A" uniform, a bullet resistant vest, and a Sam Browne duty belt. The equipment on his duty belt included: four fully loaded ammunition magazines, a handheld radio, OC spray, two handcuff cases, a flashlight holder, an emergency tourniquet, a key holder, an expandable straight baton, and a holster containing his duty firearm **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 102-103]**.

Taylor Ingersoll, Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
Central Patrol Division
Compton Station

Work History

Date of Employment: February 20, 2008
Date Assigned to Compton Station: June 5, 2016
Date Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents: [redacted]
Prior Category 3 Force Incidents: [redacted]

Equipment Worn on Person

Deputy Ingersoll wore a long sleeve Class "A" uniform, a bullet resistant vest, and a Sam Browne duty belt. The equipment on his duty belt included: four fully loaded ammunition magazines, a handheld radio, OC spray, two handcuff cases, a flashlight holder, an emergency tourniquet, a key holder, an expandable straight baton, and a holster containing his duty firearm **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 105]**.

Rogelio Benzor, Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
Central Patrol Division
Compton Station

Work History

Date of Employment: June 19, 2006
Date Assigned to Compton Station: July 27, 2014
Date Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents: [redacted]
Prior Category 3 Force Incidents: [redacted]

Equipment Worn on Person

Deputy Benzor wore a long sleeve Class "A" uniform, a bullet resistant vest, and a Sam Browne duty belt. The equipment on his duty belt included: two fully loaded ammunition magazines, a handheld radio, OC spray, two handcuff cases, a flashlight holder, an emergency tourniquet, a key holder, an expandable straight baton, and a holster containing his duty firearm **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 111-112]**.

Edgar Cuevas, Deputy Sheriff, #[redacted]
Central Patrol Division
Compton Station

Work History

Date of Employment: January 7, 2008
Date Assigned to Compton Station: October 4, 2015
Date Completed Patrol Training: [redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents: One

Prior Category 3 Force Incidents: [redacted]

Equipment Worn on Person

Deputy Cuevas wore a long sleeve Class "A" uniform, a bullet resistant vest, and a Sam Browne duty belt. The equipment on his duty belt included: two fully loaded ammunition magazines, a handheld radio, OC spray, two handcuff cases, a flashlight holder, an emergency tourniquet, a key holder, an expandable straight baton, and a holster containing his duty firearm **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 108-109]**.

SUSPECT INFORMATION

James Earl Harris

Male, Black, DOB: 02/11/1991, 5'02", 220 pounds
[redacted]
CII # [redacted] MAIN # [redacted] FBI # [redacted]

A check of the Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS) **[Miscellaneous Documents]** revealed Suspect Harris had [redacted]

During their subsequent investigation, Homicide Bureau detectives identified Suspects Hayden Taylor and Deven Littlejohn as being involved in this incident. Their Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS) reports are attached with this casebook **[Miscellaneous Documents]**.

SUSPECTS INJURIES

None

INVOLVED PERSONNEL INJURIES

Deputy Ingersoll

Deputy Ingersoll sustained a burn to his left upper shoulder caused by a "grazing" round fired by the suspect, and abrasions to his right hand were believed to be from fragmented rounds (unknown origin) **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 104 / Deputy Ingersoll's IAB transcripts, pages 25 and 27]**.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Under the direction of Homicide Bureau detectives, all physical evidence related to this incident was identified and collected by Forensic Identification Specialists Mira Amin # [redacted] David Alonso # [redacted] Alexis Alusha # [redacted] Susannah Baker # [redacted] Fred Cruz # [redacted] John Chun # [redacted] Stefanie Marr # [redacted] and David Ozeta

#[redacted] as well as Senior Criminalists Flynn Lamas #[redacted] Sara Cohen-Hadria #[redacted] and Tracy peck #[redacted] all of whom are assigned to the Scientific Services Bureau (SSB). For a description of the evidence collected, see the Crime Laboratory Reports **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 190-279]**.

INVESTIGATOR'S OBSERVATIONS

The scenes were described in detail by Homicide Bureau Detectives Gina Eguia, Robert Martindale, Domenick Recchia, Michael Haggerty, Dean Camarillo, Scott Matlock, Eric Arias, Gail Durham, Antonio Guillen and Eduardo Aguirre **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 44-174]**. The scenes were also photographed by Forensic Identification Specialist (FIS) Alonso, Alusha, Amin, Baker, Bravo, Chun, Cruz, and Ozeta **[EXHIBIT A: Photographs]**. FIS Baker and Marr completed sketches of the scenes **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 190-193]**. The IAB investigators' observations were consistent with what was described and documented by Homicide Bureau detectives.

WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY INGERSOLL

On July 4, 2019, Homicide Bureau Detectives Eugia, Martindale, and FIS Baker inspected Deputy Ingersoll's weapon: a Sig Sauer, Model P226, 9-millimeter, semiautomatic pistol, serial number [redacted] equipped with a Surefire X300 Ultra-light attached under the barrel. Deputy Ingersoll carried his firearm with one round in the chamber and 20 rounds in the magazine. At the time of inspection, the firearm contained one round in the chamber and six rounds in the magazine, indicating Deputy Ingersoll fired 14 rounds during the incident **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 105 / Deputy Ingersoll's Homicide transcript]**. The firearm was tested for functionality. The results of the test confirmed the firearm was operable **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 236-238]**.

Deputy Ingersoll last qualified with his duty weapon on [redacted]

IAB Note: While Deputy Ingersoll was authorized to carry his Sig Sauer pistol on-duty, [redacted] at the time of the incident.

WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY BARAJAS

On July 4, 2019, Homicide Bureau Detectives Eugia, Martindale, and FIS Baker inspected Deputy Barajas' duty weapon: a Sig Sauer, Model P226, 9-millimeter, semiautomatic pistol, serial number [redacted] equipped with a Surefire X300 Ultra-light attached under the barrel. Deputy Barajas carried his firearm with one round in the chamber and 20 rounds in the magazine. The firearm inspected contained one round in the chamber and two rounds in the magazine, indicating Deputy Barajas fired 18 rounds during the incident **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 105 / Deputy Barajas' Homicide transcript]**. The firearm was tested for functionality. The results of the test confirmed the firearm was operable **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 236-238]**.

Deputy Barajas last qualified with his duty weapon on [redacted]

IAB Note: While Deputy Barajas was authorized to carry his Sig Sauer pistol on-duty, [redacted] at the time of the incident. Deputy Barajas' firearm was also found to contain an unauthorized manufacturer magazine.

WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY BENZOR

On July 4, 2019, Homicide Bureau Detectives Eugia, Martindale, and FIS Baker inspected Deputy Benzor's duty weapon: a Smith and Wesson, Model M&P, 9-millimeter, semiautomatic pistol, serial number [redacted] equipped with a Surefire X300 Ultra-light attached under the barrel. Deputy Benzor carried his firearm with one round in the chamber and 17 rounds in the magazine. The firearm inspected contained one round in the chamber and 14 rounds in the magazine, indicating Deputy Benzor fired three rounds during the incident **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 111 / Deputy Benzor's Homicide transcript]**. The firearm was tested for functionality. The results of the test confirmed the firearm was operable **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 236-238]**.

Deputy Benzor last qualified with his weapon on [redacted]

WEAPON USED BY DEPUTY CUEVAS

On July 4, 2019, Homicide Bureau Detectives Eugia, Martindale, and FIS Baker inspected Deputy Cuevas' duty weapon: a Sig Sauer, Model P226, 9-millimeter, semiautomatic pistol, serial number [redacted] equipped with a Surefire X300 Ultra-light attached under the barrel. Deputy Cuevas carried his firearm with one round in the chamber and 15 rounds in the magazine. The firearm inspected contained one round in the chamber and 11 rounds in the magazine, indicating Deputy Cuevas fired four rounds during the incident **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 108-109 / Deputy Cuevas' Homicide transcript]**. The firearm was tested for functionality. The results of the test confirmed the firearm was operable **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 236-238]**.

Deputy Cuevas last qualified with his weapon on [redacted]

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECTS

The following firearms were recovered on scene or in the suspect's vehicle:

1. One (1) stainless steel Rossi, .357 magnum revolver handgun, serial [redacted] with black grip, and containing one live "SIG" .357 round was found in a hidden compartment inside the suspect's vehicle **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 71, 78-79, 82-86]**. The firearm was tested for

functionality. The results of the test confirmed the firearm was operable **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 250-253]**.

2. One (1) black Glock, Model 19, 9 mm, semiautomatic handgun, serial #[redacted] with one live round in the chamber and magazine containing 17 live 9 mm rounds with various headstamps was also found in the hidden compartment inside the suspect's vehicle **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 71, 78-79, 82-86]**. The firearm was tested for functionality. The results of the test confirmed the firearm was operable **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 260-268]**.

3. One (1) black Romar/Cugir Draco, gas operated, 7.62X39 mm, semiautomatic pistol, serial #[redacted] with the slide in the locked (rear) position, containing an empty 30 round magazine, was found at [redacted] **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 95-96, 113-114]**. The firearm was tested for functionality. The results of the test confirmed the firearm was operable **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 260-268]**.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

The Homicide Bureau detectives' Supplemental Reports and Crime Scene Investigation Reports indicated the following damages were observed **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, Page 50-]**:

1. 2018 Cadillac Escalade (CA License [redacted] Front and rear driver's side doors pried open at the top window frame with twisted metal pulled outward; driver's side window was damaged/shattered; several bullet strikes along the driver's side door, rear cargo area, and rear passenger side door; Significant traffic collision damage to the passenger side fender and bumper; Bullet strikes to driver's door, driver's side rear window, passenger side taillight, rear passenger side cargo window, and rear passenger side door frame **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 50-53, 77-83, 223, 246-249 / Photos]**.

2. 2008 Ford Crown Victoria (CA Exempt License 1291272), equipment number SD6548; bullet holes and impacts to front windshield and interior dash area; bullet holes to front right A pillar trim; bullet hole to front right spotlight; bullet impacts to front bumper, hood, right front fender panel, right front passenger door; bullet hole to right rear passenger door **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 128-143 / Photos]**.

3. 2011 Ford Crown Victoria (CA Exempt License 1373964), equipment number SH1416; bullet hole to front passenger side fender **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 50-51, 54, 245-249 / Photos]**.

4. 2013 Ford F150 truck (CA License [redacted] bullet hole in driver's door window, bullet strike near rear driver's side window **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, page 61-62, 66-67, and 243-249 / Photos]**.

5. 1999 Acura Integra (CA License [redacted] bullet holes in drivers' side rear windows **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 61-62, 66-67, and 243-249 / Photos]**.

6. 2017 Chevrolet Malibu (CA License [redacted] involved in traffic collision with Black Cadillac **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 139-143 / Photos]**.

7. 2001 Honda Accord (CA License [redacted] involved in traffic collision with Black Cadillac **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 139-143 / Photos]**.

8. 2005 Honda Odyssey (CA License [redacted] involved in traffic collision with Black Cadillac **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 139-143 / Photos]**.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS AND CHARGES FILED

The criminal investigation into this shooting was conducted by Homicide Bureau Detectives Eugia and Martindale. On January 15, 2021, the investigators presented their case to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Suspects James Earl Harris and Jayden Payne Taylor were charged in Los Angeles Superior Court under case number TA152343. On October 10, 2020, Homicide Bureau detectives presented their case against Suspect Deven Littlejohn to the Los Angele County District Attorney's Office under the same case number.

Suspects Harris, Taylor, and LittleJohn were charged with the following Penal Code (PC) and Vehicle Code (VC) offenses:

- 187 (a) PC – Murder
- 664 / 187 (a) PC – Attempted Murder.
- 245 (D)(3) PC – Assault with a deadly weapon, machinegun
- 26100 (C) PC – Shooting from a motor vehicle
- 2800.2 VC – Evading

On July 14, 2022, Suspect LittleJohn plead Nolo Contendere to the crime of 245 (D)(3) PC and received 12 years in State Prison; the remaining charges were dismissed due to plea negotiation. Refer to Superior Court of California, Minute Orders **[Miscellaneous Documents]**.

The case against Suspects Harris and Taylor is ongoing with a pending court date of August 31, 2022. Refer to Superior Court of California, Minute Orders **[Miscellaneous Documents]**.

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The incident occurred during the evening hours. The weather was mostly clear.

SURVEILLANCE VIDEO

Homicide Bureau investigators obtained video surveillance footage related to the incident. IAB investigators reviewed the surveillance video footage. There were 19 surveillance videos located. IAB investigators reviewed the surveillance video, which captured a portion of the pursuit and the shooting. Refer to Videos #2, 9, and 15-19. **[EXHIBIT A: Videos]**.

RADIO TRAFFIC

IAB investigators reviewed Dispatch 9, Compton Metro L-Tac, and A-Tac 4 recorded radio frequencies. The following are summarized excerpts from the compiled radio traffic **[EXHIBIT A: Radio Traffic]**:

Radio Traffic Dispatch Channel 9

Actual Time	Audio File No.	Description
23:19:26	1	Unit 287D (Deputy Ingersoll) requested the duplex patch and advised he and his partner were in pursuit of a reckless "DUI" suspect. He updated the location as Acacia Avenue, north of Elm Street, approaching Rosecrans Avenue.
23:20:33	1	Deputy Ingersoll advised they were taking rounds and a deputy involved shooting occurred.
23:21:04	1	282D (Deputy Cuevas) advised they were involved in the pursuit.
23:21:48	1	Deputies advised they continued to receive gunfire at Aranbe Avenue and Stockwell Street.
23:22:09	1	Deputy Cuevas advised the suspects utilized a high-powered rifle, possibly an "AK." On Paulson Avenue, approached Hatchway Street.
23:23:04	1	Deputy Ingersoll advised both deputies were accounted for and stopped at 130th Street and Wilmington Avenue.

23:23:54	1	Deputy Cuevas lost sight of the suspect vehicle at Wilmington Avenue and 120th Street.
23:24:11	1	Deputy Ingersoll requested units to check his partner and himself, unknown if they were injured.
23:24:28	1	Deputy Cuevas advised the vehicle travelled westbound 120th Street from Wilmington Avenue. He advised they were involved in a deputy involved shooting.
23:24:44	1	Aero Bureau (Air 22) advised they observed the suspect's vehicle and advised the direction of travel.
23:26:46	1	Air 22 advised the suspect vehicle travelled north on Vermont Avenue and entered the westbound 105 Freeway.
23:26:39	1	Air 22 advised the suspects appeared to fire at their airship.
23:31:56	1	Air 22 advised the suspect vehicle exited Manchester Avenue from the north 405 Freeway.
23:32:29	1	Air 22 advised the suspect's vehicle pulled over on Queen Street, east of Ash Avenue.
23:32:46	1	Aero Bureau (Air 21) advised a suspect ran from the vehicle through an apartment complex.
23:33:51	1	Air 21 advised a patrol unit detained a suspect at gunpoint.
23:36:33	1	Air 21 established a containment of the area.
23:45:58	1	282D advised the suspect's vehicle was bulletproof.

IAB investigators obtained and reviewed the contents of Compton Metro L-Tac and A-Tac 4 frequencies. No significant radio traffic associated with the incident was heard. The audio files were submitted with this casebook **[EXHIBIT A: Radio Traffic]**.

STATEMENTS

The following narratives are intended only as a synopsis of the interviews. Additional information and precise wording may be obtained by reviewing the digitally audio recorded interviews and verbatim transcriptions.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEES

Deputy Taylor Ingersoll

On July 4, 2019, Deputy Ingersoll was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Eguia and Martindale. Deputy Ingersoll was represented by Attorney Tom Yu **[Deputy Ingersoll's Homicide transcripts]**.

Deputy Ingersoll was interviewed on June 28, 2022, by IAB Sergeants Armando Martinez and Marlon Johnson. He was again represented by attorney Tom Yu.

On July 3, 2019, Deputy Ingersoll and his partner, Deputy Barajas, were assigned to patrol duties at Compton Station as Unit 287D. They worked PM shift from [redacted] to [redacted] hours, in a two-person marked patrol vehicle. Deputy Barajas was the driver, and Deputy Ingersoll was the passenger.

Prior to the incident, Deputies Ingersoll and Barajas arrested an individual for [redacted] They handcuffed their arrestee, placed him in the rear of their patrol vehicle and placed a seat belt on him. Deputy Barajas drove their patrol vehicle toward Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) to book their arrestee. While enroute to CRDF, the deputies observed a black Cadillac Escalade that failed to stop at the red light at the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue / Willowbrook Avenue. Deputy Ingersoll and his partner followed the vehicle and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. They activated the forward-facing red light of their patrol vehicle as they turned onto Alameda Street. The suspect's vehicle pulled over to the shoulder of the roadway and stopped for a brief second. Before Deputy Ingersoll exited their patrol vehicle, the suspects accelerated away and the deputies initiated a vehicle pursuit **[Deputy Ingersoll's IAB transcript, page 11]**.

Deputy Ingersoll advised over his handheld radio they (he and Deputy Barajas) were involved in a vehicle pursuit. The suspect travelled west on Arbutus Street, north on Tamarind Avenue, west on Elm Street, north on Acacia Avenue, west on Rosecrans Avenue, south on Oleander Avenue, and finally west on Spruce Street. At the intersection of Spruce Street and Oleander Avenue, Deputy Ingersoll observed the rear passenger side door of the suspect's vehicle open and saw the silhouette of a person (passenger) hanging out of the door. He then observed "muzzle flashes" and heard gunshots from a "high-powered rifle." Deputy Ingersoll advised over the radio the suspects he was pursuing had fired at he and his partner.

Deputy Ingersoll said he could hear "rounds" strike their patrol vehicle. He estimated they (he and Barajas) were approximately two or three car lengths behind the suspect's vehicle when they were fired upon **[Deputy Ingersoll's IAB transcript, pages 12-14]**. Fearing for his life and his partner's life, Deputy Ingersoll fired approximately five to ten rounds through the windshield of his patrol vehicle as he continued chasing the suspect. Deputy Ingersoll communicated with his arrestee to lay on the floor, behind the metal

cage. Deputy Ingersoll advised over the radio that the suspects had fired at him, and that he and his partner had been in a "deputy-involved shooting."

The suspects drove north on Aranbe Avenue and crossed Rosecrans Avenue, while continuing to fire at the patrol vehicle. Bullets fired by the suspects continued to hit the front passenger side of the patrol vehicle. Deputy Ingersoll again engaged the suspect's and fired an additional five to ten rounds from his firearm through his windshield while aiming at the suspect's rear passenger side window **[Deputy Ingersoll's IAB transcript, pages 18-19]**. Deputy Ingersoll believed the best option was to fire through the windshield as opposed to having his hand out the window and shooting wildly **Deputy Ingersoll's IAB transcript, page 26]**. Due to the fact the suspects had fired at deputies in a marked patrol vehicle, had driven erratically through neighborhood streets, and did not appear concerned with the public's safety, Deputy Ingersoll believed the risk of capturing the suspect's outweighed the risk of injury posed to his arrestee both by the pursuit and through suspect's actions. Therefore, Deputy Ingersoll continued the pursuit **[Deputy Ingersoll's IAB transcript, pages 20-21]**.

The suspects drove west on Stockwell Street and then north on Wilmington Avenue. Deputy Ingersoll was advised another patrol unit was enroute to assist in the pursuit by handling the radio broadcasts. Shortly thereafter, Deputy Ingersoll's patrol vehicle's power steering ceased working, and Deputy Barajas parked their vehicle along the curb of Wilmington Avenue. The deputies exited their patrol vehicle and visually checked each other, as well as their arrestee, for any injuries. Deputy Ingersoll discovered he had sustained a burn from a grazing bullet strike to his left shoulder and abrasions to his right hand from shrapnel. **[Deputy Ingersoll's IAB transcript, pages 24-27]**. He was not sure if the shrapnel resulted from his rounds or that of the suspect. Deputy Ingersoll was medically treated for his injuries. Deputy Barajas and their arrestee were not injured.

Deputy Ingersoll observed his patrol vehicle had sustained bullet impacts to the passenger's side hood, the front fender, and spotlight.

Deputy Edwin Barajas

On July 4, 2019, Deputy Barajas was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Eguia and Martindale. Deputy Barajas was represented by Attorney Tom Yu **[Deputy Barajas' Homicide transcripts]**.

Deputy Ingersoll was interviewed on June 28, 2022, by IAB Sergeants Armando Martinez and Marlon Johnson. He was again represented by attorney Tom Yu.

On July 3, 2019, Deputy Barajas and his partner, Deputy Ingersoll were assigned to patrol duties at Compton Station as Unit 287D. They worked PM Shift from [redacted] to [redacted] hours, in marked patrol vehicle. Deputy Barajas was the driver, and Deputy Ingersoll was the passenger.

Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll were on their way to book an individual they had arrested for [redacted] Deputy Barajas drove east on Rosecrans Avenue and observed a black Cadillac Escalade that failed to stop at a red light. The vehicle proceeded south on Alameda Street and failed to stop at an additional red light. Deputy Barajas believed (due to the driving pattern) the occupants in the vehicle may need assistance **[Deputy Barajas' IAB transcript, pages 9-10]**. The vehicle continued to Elm Street and failed to stop at a posted stop sign. Deputy Barajas attempted to initiate a traffic stop by turning on his vehicle's forward-facing red light. The driver (suspect) stopped for a brief second, and then accelerated at a high rate of speed; a vehicle pursuit ensued. Deputy Ingersoll activated the duplex patch and advised he was in pursuit. Deputy Barajas intended to have an additional patrol unit take over the pursuit once they arrived because he was concerned for the safety of the arrestee who was seated in the backseat of their patrol vehicle **[Deputy Barajas' IAB transcript, pages 13-14, and 17]**.

The suspect drove west on Rosecrans Avenue, then south on Oleander Avenue. As Deputy Barajas' patrol vehicle came within 15 feet of the suspect's vehicle, he heard more gunshots (Oleander Avenue and Spruce Street). Deputy Barajas observed "muzzle fire" coming from the rear passenger side of the suspect's vehicle. Deputy Barajas was in disbelief he was being shot at. He could hear rounds strike his entire vehicle **[Deputy Barajas' IAB transcript, pages 19-20]**. Deputy Barajas unholstered his firearm and fired approximately ten rounds through the front windshield of his patrol vehicle. Deputy Barajas feared for his life and his partners life. He said he believed he was not going to make it home to his wife and children. Deputy Barajas said he aimed at the rear passenger side window of the suspect's vehicle **[Deputy Barajas' IAB transcript, pages 22-24]**. Deputy Barajas estimated he was driving at 15 to 20 miles per hour while pursuing the suspects as he fired his first volley of rounds.

The suspect's drove north on Aranbe Avenue while continuing to fire at the deputies. The suspect's turned west on Stockwell Avenue, and Deputy Barajas engaged the suspects a second time. Deputy Barajas fired an additional seven rounds through the windshield of his patrol vehicle. He again aimed at the passenger side of the suspect's vehicle where he had seen the "muzzle fire" come from. He attempted to "stop the threat" as he fired, hoping his actions would cause the suspects to stop shooting at him and his partner. Deputy Barajas was concerned for his safety, the safety of his partner, and that of their arrestee. He gave the arrestee commands to "stay down" in the backseat. As the suspect's turned north on Wilmington Avenue, Deputy Barajas felt their patrol vehicle "give out and begin to shut down," and he pulled to the side of the road.

Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll exited their patrol vehicle and physically checked each other and their arrestee for injuries. Deputy Barajas advised assisting patrol units of the suspect's direction of travel. Deputy Barajas observed bullet strikes on his patrol vehicle's hood, bumper, and windshield **[Deputy Barajas' IAB transcript, pages 36-37]**. Shortly thereafter, the fire department arrived and checked both the deputies and their arrestee for injuries.

Deputy Rogelio Benzor

On July 4, 2019, Deputy Benzor was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Eguia and Martindale. Deputy Ingersoll was represented by Attorney Tom Yu **[Deputy Benzor's Homicide transcripts]**.

Deputy Benzor was interviewed on June 28, 2022, by IAB Sergeants Armando Martinez and Marlon Johnson. He was again represented by attorney Tom Yu.

On July 3, 2019, Deputy Benzor and his partner, Deputy Cuevas, were assigned to patrol duties at Compton Station as Unit 282D. They worked PM Shift from [redacted] to [redacted] hours, in a marked patrol vehicle. Deputy Benzor was the driver, and Deputy Cuevas was the passenger.

Deputy Benzor was in the area of Compton Boulevard and Aranbe Avenue when he heard another Compton Station patrol unit broadcast emergent radio traffic over the radio. The deputies indicated they were in a vehicle pursuit and Deputy Benzor recognized they were less than a mile away. Deputy Benzor drove north on Aranbe Avenue, towards the pursuit. Deputy Ingersoll broadcasted he and his partner "took rounds" from a high-caliber weapon and had been in a deputy-involved shooting. When he arrived at Spruce Street, Deputy Benzor observed a black Cadillac Escalade being pursued by a patrol unit. The two vehicles drove west on Spruce Street, then turned north on Aranbe Street. Deputy Benzor observed two to four flashes "from a muzzle" coming from the Escalade **[Deputy Benzor's IAB transcript, pages 7-9]**. The suspect's travelled west on Shauer Street, then south on Paulsen Street. Deputy Benzor concentrated on his driving as Deputy Cuevas advised the handling unit (Barajas and Ingersoll) that he would call out the pursuit's direction of travel.

The suspect's drove north on Wilmington Avenue, followed by the handling unit. Deputy Benzor observed Deputy Barajas' patrol vehicle decelerate and veered to the right. He believed the other deputies were injured due to the amount of rounds the suspect's had fired at them **[Deputy Benzor's IAB transcript, pages 10-11]**. Deputy Benzor slowed his vehicle as he approached Deputy Barajas' patrol vehicle. Once he had visually checked on Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll and determined they were not injured, he and Deputy Cuevas continued to pursue the suspects.

Deputy Benzor noted the suspects had extended their distance from him and had turned eastbound onto a small street. He turned east on 119th Street, travelled 100 to 150 feet, and saw the suspects were now driving straight towards him and his partner (Cuevas). Deputy Benzor stopped in the middle of the street, and both he and Deputy Cuevas exited the patrol vehicle. Deputy Benzor positioned himself approximately four feet south of his patrol vehicle, which was parked in the middle of the street. Deputy Benzor heard the roar of the suspect's vehicle as it drove towards them. He observed a rifle barrel appear from the window of the rear driver side door. He believed the suspects were going to shoot and kill him and/or his partner based on what he had seem them do to Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll **[Deputy Benzor's IAB transcript,**

page 13-15]. Deputy Benzor aimed at the suspect's rear driver side window and fired approximately two to three rounds from his firearm as the vehicle passed their patrol vehicle. At the moment of the shooting Deputy Benzor's backdrop consisted of a shopping center.

The suspect continued driving west on 120th Street. Deputies Benzor and Cuevas visually checked each other and found neither was injured. They entered their patrol vehicle, made a U-turn, and continued their pursuit of the suspect's vehicle. Although they did not see the suspect's vehicle any longer, they were updated by an Aero Bureau unit of the suspects' location. The Aero Bureau unit relayed the suspect's had travelled west on the 105 Freeway, north on the 405 Freeway, exited Manchester Boulevard, driven north on Ash Avenue, and then east onto Queen Street where the vehicle was now parked. They also advised a suspect was seen running south, away from the parked vehicle and through an apartment complex **[Deputy Benzor's IAB transcript, page 19]**. Deputies Benzor and Cuevas responded to the location and were the first unit to arrive.

They observed a male black walked westbound on the sidewalk. They believed the individual was involved in the pursuit. They detained the individual and handcuffed him without incident. Assisting units arrived and a containment was established. Deputies developed a plan to approach the suspect's vehicle. They utilized glass breaking projectiles from a Pepperball launcher at the suspect's vehicle. They later determined the vehicle was equipped with bullet proof armored windows. Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) was notified and arrived on scene. Deputy Benzor was then escorted to the station.

Deputy Edgar Cuevas

On July 4, 2019, Deputy Cuevas was interviewed by Homicide Bureau Detectives Eguia and Martindale. Deputy Cuevas was represented by Attorney Tom Yu **[Deputy Cuevas' Homicide transcripts]**.

Deputy Ingersoll was interviewed on June 29, 2022, by IAB Sergeants Armando Martinez and Marlon Johnson. He was again represented by attorney Tom Yu.

On July 3, 2019, Deputy Cuevas and his partner (Deputy Benzor) were assigned to patrol duties at Compton Station as Unit 282D. They worked PM Shift from [redacted] to [redacted] hours, in a marked patrol vehicle. Deputy Benzor was the driver, and Deputy Cuevas was the passenger.

Deputies Cuevas and Benzor were in the area of Compton Boulevard and Aranbe Avenue when they heard another patrol unit advise they were in pursuit of a reckless vehicle near Rosecrans Avenue and Elm Street. Deputy Cuevas advised over the radio that he and Deputy Benzor were responding to assist. Deputy Benzor drove towards the area of the pursuit. The handling unit (Barajas and Ingersoll) also advised over the radio they had been in a deputy-involved shooting.

Deputy Cuevas drove north on Aranbe Avenue toward Spruce Street. From two blocks away, he observed a black Cadillac Escalade being pursued by a marked patrol car. Deputy Cuevas observed what appeared to be approximately ten "fireballs" coming from the passenger side of the suspect's vehicle and then heard the distinct sounds of gunfire **[Deputy Cuevas' IAB transcript, pages 9-11]**. Deputy Cuevas believed the pursuing deputies had been shot or injured.

Deputy Cuevas advised over the radio that he would "call out the pursuit," so they (Barajas and Ingersoll) could concentrate on the suspect's vehicle. Deputy Cuevas saw the suspects continue to fire at the pursuing deputies. He said he could hear rounds skipping off the pursuing patrol vehicle and saw smoke as other rounds hit the concrete roadway. The suspect's appeared to shoot from both (rear) sides of their vehicle. As they joined the pursuit, Deputy Cuevas believed as he and his partner were going to be shot and that he was going to die. The suspect drove erratically as the pursuit weaved into and out of oncoming traffic lanes and crossed over lane dividing lines. The pursuit continued through residential streets. As he observed Deputies Barajas' patrol vehicle slowed down and stop at Wilmington Avenue, Deputy Cuevas believed his partners (Ingersoll and Barajas) had been shot.

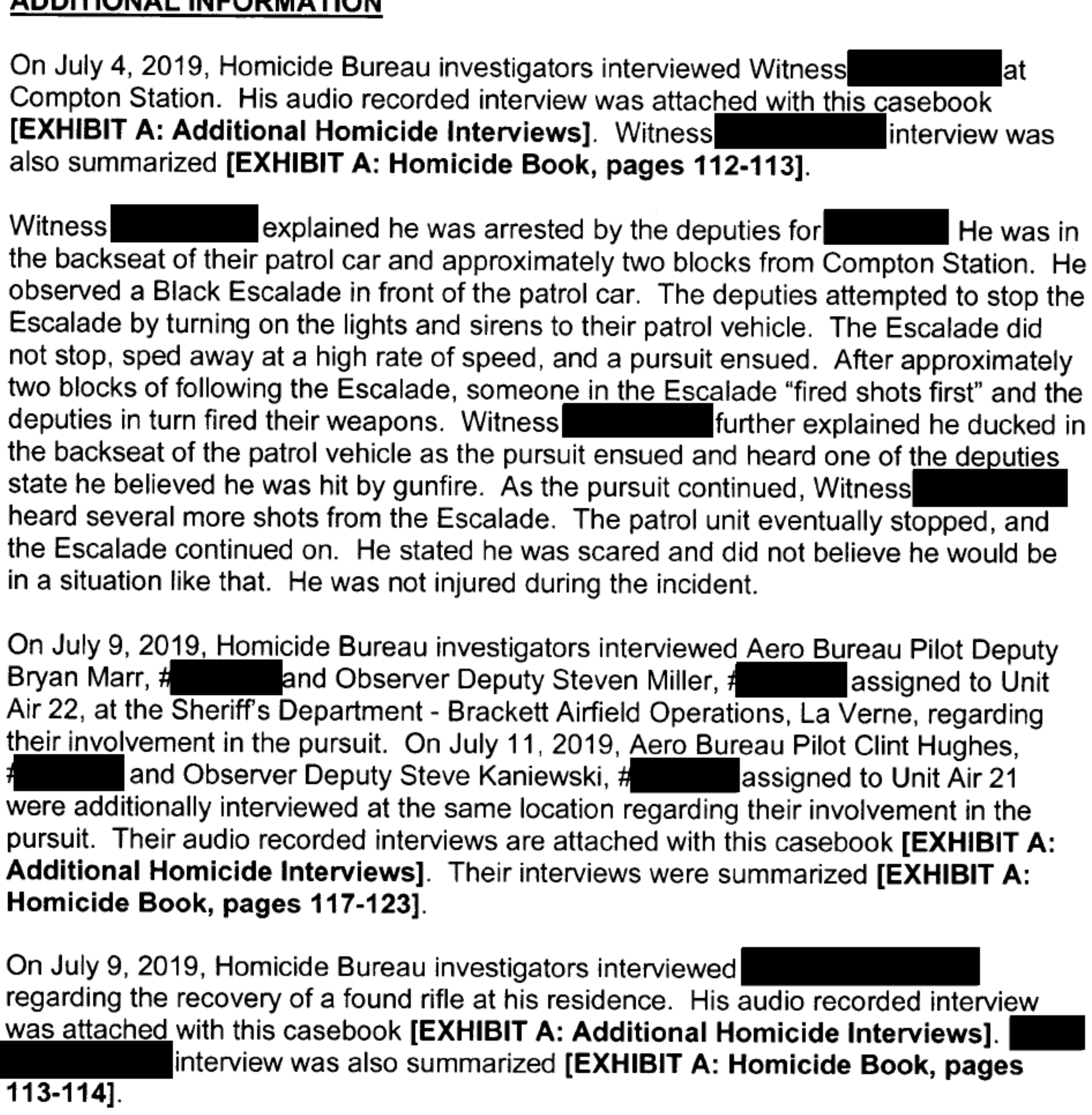
Deputies Benzor and Cuevas slowed down and observed Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll had exited their patrol vehicle. They visually noted the deputies were unharmed **[Deputy Cuevas' IAB transcript, pages 16-17]** and continued their pursuit of the suspects. Once they had turned onto 119th Street, Deputy Cuevas observed the suspects driving straight towards him. Despite having their overhead lights and siren activated, the suspects continued driving at a high rate of speed towards him and his partner **[Deputy Cuevas' IAB transcript, pages 18-19]**. Again, Deputy Cuevas believed the suspects were about to fire at them, now from an even closer distance. In response, Deputies Benzor and Cuevas exited their patrol vehicle.

Deputy Cuevas took cover on the sidewalk, behind a parked truck and a wooden telephone pole. He tried to conceal himself so the suspects could not see him **[Deputy Cuevas' IAB transcript, pages 21-23]**. As the suspect's vehicle continued toward them, he observed a rifle barrel protruding from the suspect's rear driver side window. Again, he believed the suspects were about to fire at him and his partner and that they would be killed. Deputy Cuevas fired four to five rounds at the suspect's vehicle from a distance of approximately 40 feet away while aiming at the rear window (where he had seen the rifle barrel). At the time he fired his weapon, Deputy Cuevas said his backdrop consisted of the Food-4-Less grocery store. Deputy Cuevas fired, sidestepped to his right, fell on the ground, and stopped firing at the suspect's vehicle **[Deputy Cuevas' IAB transcript, pages 25-28]**.

The suspect's fled west on 120th Street. Deputies Benzor and Cuevas re-entered their patrol vehicle and continued to pursue the suspects. An Aero Bureau unit arrived and began to broadcast the suspects' direction of travel. Deputies Benzor and Cuevas lost sight of the vehicle but continued to follow the Aero Bureau unit's directions. The suspects exited the freeway and parked. As they arrived at the now parked vehicle,

Deputy Cuevas observed a black male walking towards them who stated he had just been robbed **[Deputy Cuevas' IAB transcript, pages 32]**. Deputy Cuevas believed the black male was involved in the pursuit and assault, so he handcuffed and detained him without further incident.

Additional patrol units arrived and established a containment of the area for any additional suspects. A sergeant arrived and developed a plan of approach to the parked vehicle. Later, Special Enforcement Bureau arrived on scene and took command of the incident as Deputy Cuevas was escorted back to the station.



<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>

On July 4, 2019, Homicide Bureau investigators interviewed Witness [redacted] at Compton Station. His audio recorded interview was attached with this casebook **[EXHIBIT A: Additional Homicide Interviews]**. Witness [redacted] interview was also summarized **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 112-113]**.

Witness [redacted] explained he was arrested by the deputies for [redacted] He was in the backseat of their patrol car and approximately two blocks from Compton Station. He observed a Black Escalade in front of the patrol car. The deputies attempted to stop the Escalade by turning on the lights and sirens to their patrol vehicle. The Escalade did not stop, sped away at a high rate of speed, and a pursuit ensued. After approximately two blocks of following the Escalade, someone in the Escalade "fired shots first" and the deputies in turn fired their weapons. Witness [redacted] further explained he ducked in the backseat of the patrol vehicle as the pursuit ensued and heard one of the deputies state he believed he was hit by gunfire. As the pursuit continued, Witness [redacted] heard several more shots from the Escalade. The patrol unit eventually stopped, and the Escalade continued on. He stated he was scared and did not believe he would be in a situation like that. He was not injured during the incident.

On July 9, 2019, Homicide Bureau investigators interviewed Aero Bureau Pilot Deputy Bryan Marr, #[redacted] and Observer Deputy Steven Miller, #[redacted] assigned to Unit Air 22, at the Sheriff's Department - Brackett Airfield Operations, La Verne, regarding their involvement in the pursuit. On July 11, 2019, Aero Bureau Pilot Clint Hughes, #[redacted] and Observer Deputy Steve Kaniewski, #[redacted] assigned to Unit Air 21 were additionally interviewed at the same location regarding their involvement in the pursuit. Their audio recorded interviews are attached with this casebook **[EXHIBIT A: Additional Homicide Interviews]**. Their interviews were summarized **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 117-123]**.

On July 9, 2019, Homicide Bureau investigators interviewed [redacted] regarding the recovery of a found rifle at his residence. His audio recorded interview was attached with this casebook **[EXHIBIT A: Additional Homicide Interviews]**. [redacted] interview was also summarized **[EXHIBIT A: Homicide Book, pages 113-114]**.

On May 23, 2022, IAB investigators emailed Deputy Public Defender Marcus Huntley, the legal representative of both Suspects Hayden Taylor and James Harris, requesting an interview **[Miscellaneous Documents]** with his clients. As of the completion of this report, Mr. Huntley has not responded to the request.

On May 25, 2022, IAB investigators attempted to contact the residents of four addresses related to Witness [redacted] in hopes of interviewing him. Investigators left a message for Witness [redacted] to contact them. On May 24, 2022, IAB investigators sent a certified mail requesting an interview to Witness [redacted] **[Miscellaneous Documents]**. As of the completion of this report, Witness [redacted] has not contacted the IAB investigators.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
BUREAU OF PROSECUTION SUPPORT OPERATIONS
JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION

GEORGE GASCÓN • District Attorney
SHARON L. WOO • Chief Deputy District Attorney
VICTORIA L. ADAMS • Assistant District Attorney

RONALD GELTZ • Director

October 28, 2021

Captain Joe Mendoza
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Homicide Bureau
1 Cupania Circle
Monterey Park, California 91755

Re: Fatal Shooting of Rickie Starks
J.S.I.D. File #19-0293
L.A.S.D. File #019-09696-2814-011

Dear Captain Mendoza:

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the July 3, 2019, fatal shooting of [redacted] Our detailed analysis of this incident is contained in the attached memorandum.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE GASCON
District Attorney

By

ALAN YOCHELSON
Head Deputy District Attorney
Justice System Integrity Division

c: Deputy Taylor Ingersoll, #[redacted]
Deputy Edwin Barajas, #[redacted]

Hall of Justice
211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-3888
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MEMORANDUM

TO: CAPTAIN JOE MENDOZA
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Homicide Bureau
1 Cupania Circle
Monterey Park, California 91755

FROM: JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: Fatal Shooting of Rickie Starks
J.S.I.D. File #19-0293
L.A.S.D. File #019-09696-2814-011

DATE: October 28, 2021

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the July 3, 2019, death of [redacted] during an officer involved shooting involving Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputies Edwin Barajas and Taylor Ingersoll. It is our conclusion that Barajas and Ingersoll acted in lawful self-defense and defense of others, and that Starks was not struck by deputy gunfire.

The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on July 4, 2019, at approximately 2:13 a.m. The District Attorney Response Team responded and was given a briefing and a walk-through of the scene.

The following analysis is based on police and investigative reports, coroner's report, audio recorded interviews, forensic analysis, video surveillance, police radio traffic and photographic evidence submitted to this office by Sergeants Gina Eguia and Robert Martindale, LASD, Homicide Bureau. Deputies Barajas and Ingersoll provided voluntary statements which were considered as part of this analysis.

INTRODUCTION

LASD deputies attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a Cadillac Escalade which resulted in a vehicle pursuit. During the pursuit, a passenger in the Escalade repeatedly fired upon the pursuing deputies with a large caliber, high-powered firearm. The deputies returned fire with their service weapons. [redacted] was riding his bicycle when the vehicle pursuit passed him, and he was fatally struck in the chest by a single gunshot. The deputy medical examiner determined that the fatal gunshot wound was consistent with being inflicted by a large caliber high-powered rifle.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On July 3, 2019, at approximately 11:19 p.m., uniformed LASD Deputies Edwin Barajas and Taylor Ingersoll observed a black Cadillac Escalade run two stop lights on Rosecrans Avenue at the intersections of Willowbrook Avenue and Alameda Street in the City of Compton. Barajas activated the marked black and white vehicle's overhead lights and siren and attempted to initiate a traffic stop. The Escalade failed to yield and a short, high-speed vehicle pursuit ensued.[1]

As the Escalade turned south onto Oleander Avenue from Rosecrans Avenue, Barajas and Ingersoll heard gunfire coming from the vehicle. The Escalade made an immediate right (west) turn onto Spruce Street, at which time an occupant leaned from one of the passenger-side windows and began firing what appeared to be a high-powered rifle at the deputies. Barajas and Ingersoll heard gunfire and saw muzzle flashes as multiple rounds struck their patrol car. In response, Barajas and Ingersoll fired their service weapons through their vehicle's windshield toward the passenger side of the Escalade.

The Escalade turned north onto Aranbe Avenue from Spruce Street as the passenger continued to fire at the deputies. At that time, LASD Deputies Rogelio Benzor and Edgar Cuevas were traveling north on Aranbe Avenue toward Spruce Street.[2] Cuevas observed an individual hanging from one of the Escalade's passenger windows firing back toward Barajas and Ingersoll's vehicle as the Escalade rounded the corner onto Aranbe Avenue. Benzor did not hear gunfire but observed muzzle flashes and could smell gun smoke as he crossed over Spruce Street. The Escalade passenger continuously fired upon Barajas and Ingersoll as it traveled north on Aranbe Avenue toward Rosecrans Avenue.

The Escalade traveled several blocks after crossing Rosecrans Avenue and approached Stockwell Street. At that time, Barajas and Ingersoll heard additional gunfire and muzzle flashes coming from the Escalade. Barajas and Ingersoll returned fire as their patrol vehicle was struck with more rounds. Cuevas also heard the additional gunfire and saw the muzzle flashes coming from the Escalade.

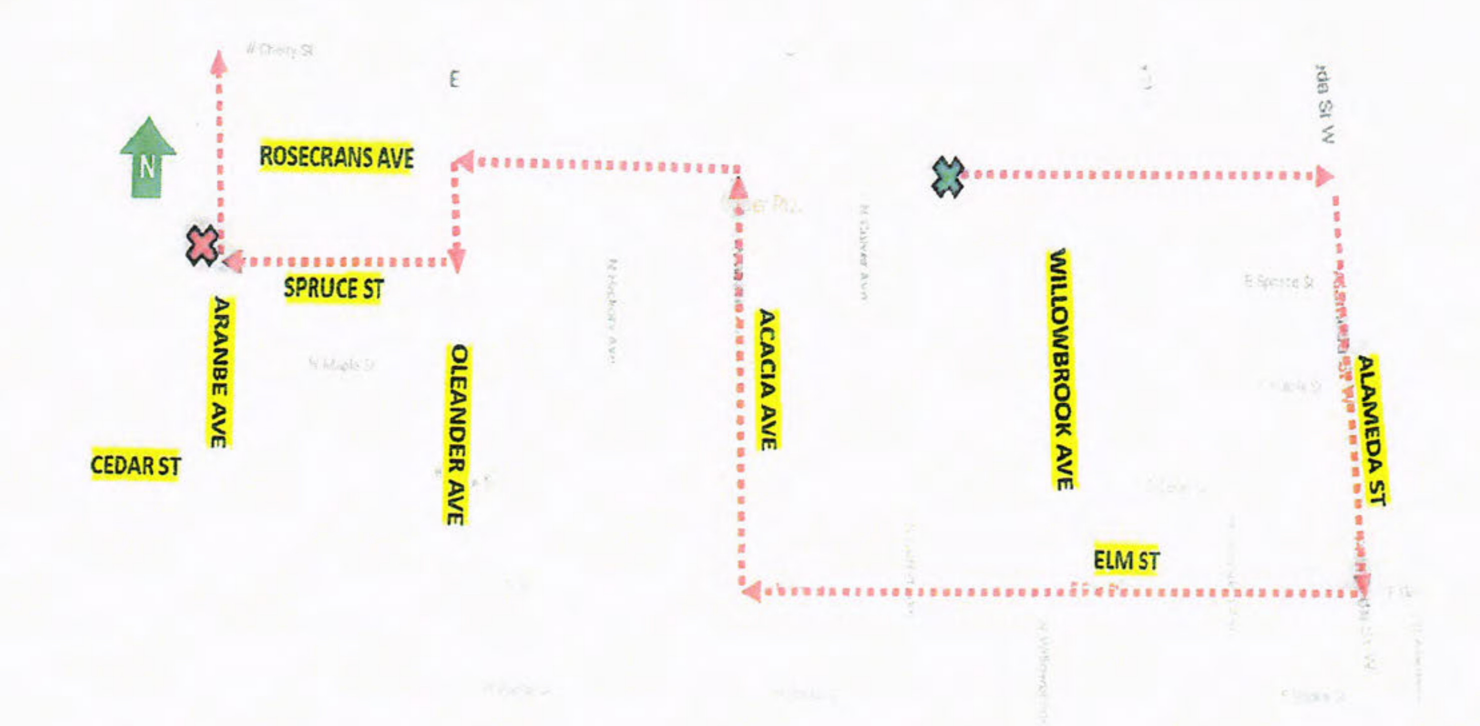
As the vehicle pursuit continued, LASD Compton Station received a call regarding a gunshot victim at the corner of Aranbe Avenue and Spruce Street. LASD Deputy Christine Adams responded to the location and observed [redacted] lying face down with his upper body beneath a car parked on the east side of Aranbe Avenue, immediately north of Spruce Street. [redacted] was unconscious and appeared to be suffering from a gunshot wound to the abdomen. A bicycle lay on the street behind the parked vehicle. Personnel from the City of Compton Fire Department arrived to the scene and declared [redacted] deceased.[3]

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[1] Ingersoll broadcast that they were in pursuit of a "reckless deuce" which is police vernacular for recklessly driving while under the influence of alcohol.

[2] Benzor and Cuevas responded to Ingersoll's radio broadcast of the vehicle pursuit. En route, they heard Ingersoll broadcast that he and Barajas were taking rounds from a high-powered rifle and that they had returned fire. Benzor and Cuevas arrived at Aranbe Avenue and Spruce Street in less than two minutes from when Ingersoll broadcast that they were in pursuit.

[3] The Compton Fire Department received the call for service at 11:28 p.m. Barajas, Ingersoll, Benzor and Cuevas told investigators they did not see any pedestrians or bicyclists in the area of Spruce Street and Aranbe Avenue. Surveillance video from a convenience store near the corner of Aranbe Avenue and Rosecrans Avenue captured [redacted] riding his bicycle in the direction of the pursuit.



The green "X" designates where Barajas and Ingersoll first observed the Escalade. The dashed arrows designate the path of the pursuit. The red "X" designates where [redacted] fell after being struck by gunfire.

Meanwhile, the pursuit continued on several residential streets before going north on Wilmington Avenue. At Wilmington Avenue and 130th Street, Barajas and Ingersoll's vehicle became disabled and they were forced to drop from the pursuit. Benzor and Cuevas continued to pursue the Escalade after checking on Barajas and Ingersoll. By that time, the Escalade had gained significant distance and turned eastbound, disappearing from view.

Benzor and Cuevas turned east onto 119th Street and approached Willowbrook Avenue. The deputies observed the Escalade northbound on Willowbrook Avenue. The Escalade slowed, then turned west on 119th Street, and accelerated toward the black and white police vehicle. Benzor and Cuevas exited their vehicle fearing the Escalade intended to crash into them. As the vehicle approached, Benzor and Cuevas observed the barrel of a firearm extending from one of the rear passenger windows and they simultaneously fired their service weapons at the Escalade. The Escalade continued west on 119th Street at a high rate of speed and disappeared from view.[4]

An LASD airship located the Escalade westbound on 120th Street and followed it as it entered the westbound lanes of the 105 freeway. As the airship followed the Escalade overhead, the onboard tactical flight officer observed muzzle flashes coming from the passenger side of the vehicle directed toward the LASD helicopter. The Escalade transitioned to the north 405 freeway and exited at Manchester Avenue in the City of Inglewood. The Escalade came to a stop on Queen Street, a residential neighborhood near the freeway. The airship observed at least one individual, later identified as James Harris, exit the Escalade and head toward an apartment complex. Benzor and

[4] There is no evidence that Benzor and Cuevas' rounds struck anyone.

Cuevas was the first unit to arrive to the scene and detained Harris a short distance from the Escalade. Harris had the Escalade's key fob in his possession. No other suspects were located in the area.[5]

Statement of [redacted]

[redacted] was in the rear seat of Barajas and Ingersoll's police vehicle during the pursuit. The deputies had arrested [redacted] for an [redacted] and were transporting him to the LASD Compton Station when the incident occurred.

[redacted] observed the Escalade in front of the patrol vehicle on Rosecrans Avenue. The Escalade sped away when Barajas activated the patrol vehicle's siren. The deputies pursued the Escalade for two to three blocks when someone in the Escalade began shooting at them. Barajas and Ingersoll fired their weapons in response. [redacted] was certain that the Escalade fired first because the deputies' gunfire was significantly louder. [redacted] described the gun fired from the Escalade as an "AK" big weapon.

[redacted] ducked down in the rear seat after hearing the gunfire. At one point, he heard a window in the police car shatter and also heard Ingersoll say he thought he had been hit by gunfire. [redacted] heard the person in the Escalade repeatedly fire upon the patrol vehicle during the pursuit.

The patrol vehicle eventually came to a stop and the Escalade disappeared from view. [redacted] was scared throughout the incident but was not injured.[6]

Injuries

Ingersoll sustained a grazing gunshot wound to his left shoulder and shrapnel wounds to his right hand.

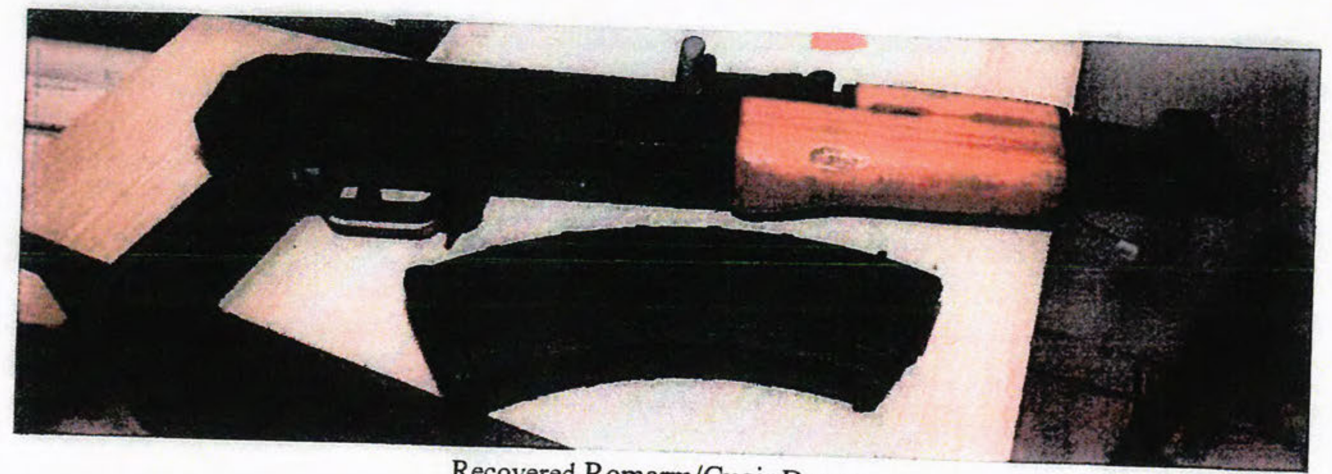
Recovered Firearm

On July 4, 2019, at approximately 3:00 a.m., a resident living in the 2000 block of Shauer Street in the City of Compton, located what he believed was a toy or replica gun lying in the street in front of his residence. The next morning, having second thoughts about whether the gun was real, the resident had deputies respond to his home and relinquished the weapon to them. The 2000 block of Shauer Street is located in the vehicle pursuit's path.

The recovered firearm is a Romarm/Cugir, model Draco, 7.62 x 39mm caliber, AK type semiautomatic pistol. This firearm is classified as an assault weapon pursuant to Penal Code section 30515, as it is a semiautomatic pistol that has a second handgrip and the capacity to accept a detachable magazine at some location outside the pistol grip. The assault weapon and magazine were unloaded.

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[5] A review of the dispatch recordings shows that approximately 12 minutes and 46 seconds elapsed between the time Ingersoll broadcast that he and Barajas were in pursuit to when the Escalade stopped on Queen Street.
[6] Ingersoll told investigators that before the gunfire, it was their intention to relinquish the vehicle pursuit to the first responding unit to arrive to their location.



Recovered Romarm/Cugir Draco.

Cadillac Escalade

The 2018 Cadillac Escalade abandoned on Queen Street had been converted into a bulletproof armored vehicle. The vehicle had been retrofitted with approximately one and a half inch thick bulletproof windows. Steel plates and Kevlar sheets were inserted into the door panels. Additionally, the vehicle's battery and fuse box were encased in steel.

The Escalade sustained bullet strikes along the driver's door, rear cargo area and rear passenger side door.

A Glock 19 9mm semiautomatic firearm and a Rossi .357 Magnum revolver were located in a hidden compartment within the Escalade. Both weapons were loaded.

Ballistic Evidence

One fired 7.62 x 39mm caliber cartridge case was recovered on Oleander Avenue, just south of Rosecrans Avenue.

Two fired 7.62 x 39mm caliber cartridge cases were recovered on Spruce Street between Oleander Avenue and Aranbe Avenue.

Twelve fired 7.62 x 39mm caliber cartridge cases were recovered on Aranbe Avenue between Spruce Street and Rosecrans Avenue.

One fired 7.62 x 39mm caliber cartridge case was recovered under the front passenger seat of the Escalade.

The 16 fired 7.62 x 39mm caliber cartridge cases were submitted to the LASD Scientific Services Bureau, Firearms Identification Section, for comparison to the Romarm/Cugir Draco recovered in the 2000 block of Shauer Street. The 16 fired 7.62 x 39mm caliber cartridge cases were determined to have been fired from the Romarm/Cugir Draco.

The only other casings recovered during the investigation were 28 9mm casings from Barajas and Ingersoll's police vehicle and five 9mm casings on 119th Street. The casings were all consistent with being fired from Barajas, Ingersoll, Benzor and Cuevas' service weapons.

An examination of the deputies' service weapons determined that Barajas fired 18 rounds, Ingersoll fired 14 rounds, Benzor fired three rounds and Cuevas fired four rounds. All four deputies were armed with 9mm semiautomatic firearms.



The 7.62 x 39mm bullet is considerably larger than the 9mm bullet.

Patrol Vehicle Damage

Barajas and Ingersoll's patrol vehicle sustained 24 bullet impacts and seven bullet holes determined to have been caused by rounds fired from the Escalade toward the police vehicle.[7] The majority of the damage was on the passenger side of the vehicle and to the front bumper. In addition, there were bullet holes caused by rounds coming through the right side of the front windshield, front passenger door handle, rear passenger door, overhead light bar and hood.

Benzor and Cuevas' patrol vehicle sustained a bullet hole to the right front fender.

Autopsy Report

Los Angeles County Deputy Medical Examiner Paul Gliniecki, M.D., performed a postmortem examination of Starks on July 6, 2019. [redacted] sustained a single, through and through gunshot wound to the chest, as such no projectile was recovered for analysis. A large entry wound was located on the left lateral chest measuring approximately two inches vertically by one and a half inches horizontally. The exit wound was located on the left abdominal region measuring one and one quarter of an inch in length by three sixteenth of an inch in width. The wound trajectory was from left to right, back to front and downward. In addition, there was an abnormal number of peripheral abrasions and contusions surrounding the exit wound on the left side of the body.

[7] There were additional bullet impacts and bullet holes to the patrol vehicle's windshield and interior that were determined to have been caused by rounds fired by Barajas and Ingersoll.

Death was ascribed to a single gunshot wound to the chest and abdomen resulting in fatal injuries to the left lung, heart, liver and the subsequent rapid loss of blood. The characteristics of the gunshot wound was consistent with a large caliber, high-powered rifle. In addition, the prominent peripheral abrasions and contusions to the left side of the body may have been produced if the body was tightly opposed to an opposing surface.

Criminal Charges

On July 23, 2020, Hayden Taylor, James Harris and Deven Littlejohn were charged with the murder of [redacted] They were also charged with four counts of attempted murder of a peace officer and four counts of assault with an assault weapon upon a peace officer. The case is set for a pretrial hearing in Department D of the Compton Superior Court.[8]

It is alleged that Harris was the Escalade's driver and that Taylor fired the Romarm/Cugir Draco assault weapon. Littlejohn was a second passenger in the vehicle. During a Perkins Operation conducted while Taylor was in custody in Riverside County, Taylor admitted to the Perkins agent that he fired upon the deputies during the pursuit because he did not want to go back to jail.[9]

THE LAW

The use of deadly force in self-defense or in defense of another is justifiable if the person claiming the right actually and reasonably believed (1) that he or the person he was defending was in imminent danger of being killed or suffering great bodily injury, (2) that the immediate use of force was necessary to defend against that danger, and (3) that he used no more force than was reasonably necessary to defend against that danger. See, CALCRIM No. 505.

When deciding whether the defendant's beliefs were reasonable, consider all the circumstance as they were known to and appeared to the defendant and consider what a reasonable person in a similar situation with similar knowledge would have believed. If the defendant's beliefs were reasonable, the danger does not need to have actually exist. See, CALCRIM No. 505.

A police officer may use reasonable force to effect an arrest, prevent escape, or overcome resistance of a person the officer believes has committed a crime. Penal Code section 835a. An officer "may use all the force that appears to him to be necessary to overcome all resistance, even to the taking of life; [an officer is justified in taking a life if] the resistance [is] such as appears to the officer likely to inflict great bodily injury upon himself or those acting with him." *People v. Mehserle* (2012) 206 Cal.App.4th 1125, 1146.

In evaluating whether a police officer's use of deadly force was reasonable in a specific situation, it is helpful to draw guidance from the objective standard of reasonableness adopted in civil actions alleging Fourth Amendment violations. "The 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight… The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and

[8] Case number TA152343.
[9] Taylor's conversation with the agent was recorded.

rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." *Graham v. Connor* (1989) 490 U.S. 386, 396-397.

CONCLUSION

The evidence examined in this case shows that Taylor, a passenger in the Escalade, fired upon Barajas and Ingersoll with a large caliber, high-powered assault weapon when the deputies attempted to initiate a traffic stop. Multiple rounds struck the patrol vehicle and Ingersoll sustained a grazing wound to the shoulder and shrapnel injuries to his right hand. Taylor's actions placed Barajas and Ingersoll in imminent fear for their lives and they responded with reasonable deadly force when they returned fire with their service weapons.

Tragically, [redacted] an innocent bystander, was fatally wounded by gunfire during the pursuit. Based upon the coroner's findings, [redacted] single gunshot wound to the chest was consistent with a round fired from a large caliber, high-powered rifle. The Romarm/Cugir Draco fires 7.62 x 39mm rounds, consistent with bullets fired from a high-powered rifle. Barajas and Ingersoll's service weapons fired a significantly smaller 9mm round.

We conclude that Deputies Edwin Barajas and Taylor Ingersoll acted in lawful self-defense and defense of another when they fired their weapons. We further conclude that the fatal injury sustained by [redacted] was not the result of deputy gunfire.